

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 13594 261938Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DLOS-09 AID-05 CEQ-01
CIAE-00 SOE-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-01
INR-10 L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05 ICA-11
SS-15 SP-02 DOE-15 INT-05 /131 W
-----061256 270751Z /11

R 261932Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0681
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
USMISSION GENEVA

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USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

GENEVA PASS LOS DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLOS SENV ENRG EWWT FR
SUBJECT: AMOCO CADIZ OIL SPILL - AMOCO WILL BE ASKED
TO REIMBURSE DAMAGE COMPENSATION PAYMENTS
MADE BY GOF

REF: A) PARIS 11638 B) PARIS 10490

1. ON APRIL 25, MICHEL D'ORNANO, MINISTER FOR ENVIRON-
MENT AND QUALITY OF LIFE, REPORTED TO THE GOF ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL COUNCIL THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT ITSELF
INTENDS TO MAKE DAMAGE COMPENSATION PAYMENTS BASED ON
CLAIMS OF THE BRETON FISHING AND TOURIST INDUSTRIES
AFFECTED BY THE AMOCO CADIZ OIL SPILL. HE CONTINUED
THAT THE GOF, IN TURN, WOULD SEEK REIMBURSEMENT DIRECTLY
FROM AMOCO TO COVER THESE PAYMENTS. THE MINISTER'S
STATEMENT FOLLOWS THE SUBMISSION LAST WEEK OF THE
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FIRST MAJOR GROUP OF ECONOMICALLY (AS OPPOSED TO POLIT-
ICALLY--SEE REF B) MOTIVATED DAMAGE SUITS BROUGHT
AGAINST THE SHIP'S OWNERS BY LOCAL INTERESTS. ON APRIL
24, PRINCIPAL TOURIST AND FISHING INTERESTS IN THE
SEVERELY AFFECTED TOWN OF ROSCOFF PETITIONED A CHICAGO
COURT TO ORDER BOTH AMOCO AND SHELL TO PAY UNSPECIFIED
"COMPENSATORY AND PUNITIVE DAMAGES".

2. ALTHOUGH D'ORNANO SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE MAKING "FULL" COMPENSATION PAYMENTS, HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE FIGURES TO BE PAID WOULD BE LESS THAN THE AMOUNTS GIVEN IN SOME RECENTLY ANNOUNCED PRIVATE ESTIMATES. HE GAVE NO FIGURES, BUT THESE PRIVATE ESTIMATES OF OVERALL LOCAL DAMAGES RESULTING FROM THE SPILL HAVE BEEN RUNNING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF 180 TO 200 MILLION DOLLARS--THAT IS, UPWARDS OF SIX TIMES THE VESSEL'S TOTAL COVERAGE BY STANDARD MARINE RISK INSURANCE PLUS CRYSTAL FUND OBLIGATIONS.

3. COMMENT: THE OIL COMPANIES MAY WISH TO CHANNEL SUITS AGAINST THEM THROUGH THOSE ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL INSTITUTIONS (FRENCH?) WHERE THE MOST "REASONABLE" ADJUDICATION OF MONETARY CLAIMS APPEARS LIKELY. HOWEVER, THE COMPANIES WILL ALSO NEED TO MINIMIZE THE RISK OF DOUBLE JEOPARDY FACED IN THE SIMULTANEOUS OPERATION OF BOTH FRENCH AND U.S. SYSTEMS.
HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WATER POLLUTION, OIL SPILLS, AMOCO CADIZ, FEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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